



California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA)
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Region II
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
March 26, 2009, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Notes

REGION II LEPC Members present:

Nabil Al-Hadithy – Berkeley CUPA, LEPC Chair
Jay Swardenzki, Fremont Fire Dept, LEPC Alternate-Chair
Micheal Pixton, DTSC Response Unit, LEPC II Environmental Rep.
LeRoy Griffin, Oakland Fire, Fire Representative

Others present:

Zack Hamill, Sonoma County OES
Edwin DeVilla, Alameda County Agriculture Dept.
Mike Grant, Union Pacific Railway

Cal-EMA Staff

Sandra McKenzie, CalEMA Coastal Region
Ron Olguin, Cal-EMA HQ, HMEP Grant Coordinator
John Clary, Cal-EMA, Region II Fire and Rescue Branch

1. Introduction

Nabil Al-Hadithy (Nabil), the LEPC II Chair, called the Region II Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting to order on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 10 AM. The Chair welcomed all and introductions took place. A quorum was not established. The following meeting notes are for informational purposes only.

Nabil queried the those present for additional agenda items or updates to share with the group. Michael Pixton, DTSC advised that he would be available to answer any questions as needed. He advised that the Chief of DTSC left the agency. Nabil will set a few minutes aside on the agenda to share any updates. Nabil requested an update on the status of the HazMat Commodity Study. Sandra advised that a representative from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) would be present at the next meeting. The Commodity Study will be addressed at the next meeting, as an expert is needed to explain the data. All members approved the agenda and the meeting proceeded.

2. Chairperson Report

Nabil provided background on the Commodity Study. Federal laws allow emergency responders the ability to request information on chemicals transported through communities by railroads for the purposes of planning. This is of particular interest since federal law has changed recently, which now allows railroads the ability to designate routes for transporting chemicals. In the past, approval was required by governments, which would potentially send chemical transport by

railway through longer routes and less populated areas, rather than through cities. The two major railways that run through the Bay Area are Union Pacific Railway (UPRR) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). A copy of Federal Codes is available through LEPC for those who request. We have copies of the Commodity Studies; however, representatives from the railroads are needed to further discuss and comprehend. LeRoy shared that Cleveland, Washington D.C. passed an ordinance that restricted hazardous materials from passing through the center of D.C. It went to court and President Bush backed the Railways stating that local jurisdictions could not preempt federal law. It was brought back to the Cleveland LEPC. Oakland modeled full and modeled empty railcars to determine what the potential impacts could be. The overall impact of trying to prohibit railcars through Oakland could result in substantial fiscal impacts on the entire Bay Area as determined by a cost benefit analysis. Oakland Fire practices with the Railways annually. The primary commodity transported by rail is liquid petroleum (L/P).

3. Training and Grant Update

Ron Olquin provided an update on the HazMat Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP). Ron has been working with LEPC Regions in Red Bluff/Redding, San Diego, Sacramento HQ, and Coastal.

A new grant application came through for the City of Newark. The grant amount is \$16,000. in addition, the matching shares at \$3,200. The grant will fund a functional exercise for the City of Newark for the EOC. The City of Newark is 13 sq. miles and is located at the Southern edge of the San Francisco Bay. The City EOC will activate and adjacent cities and towns will be involved. Ron has reviewed the grant application and the chief will forward the grant application to Nabil and to the Region II LEPC for further processing. A copy of the application was presented for approval by the committee. Once the Newark grant is processed, the grant allocation totals for Region II LEPC will total \$92, 924.00. This brings the Region to its goal of \$100,000. This is a significant increase from the last fiscal year of 07/08 HMEP Grant. LEPC Region II is now in line with the other LEPC regions. This is due to the Cal EMA support provided by the regions (Sandra and others). Ron expressed his gratitude for the support. The 08/09 HMEP grants for LEPC Region II will be closed out.

Ron has been talking to Trevor Anderson, Cal EMA about "Team Typing". Ron handles HMEP and Trevor handles the Team Typing. They were invited to the City of Hayward by the HazMat Subcommittee on February 4. Nabil was present as well. Ron briefed the subcommittee on the HMEP grants.

The deadline to receive the HMEP grant applications for the next fiscal year 09/10 will be August 15. Ron makes the request through the LEPC Regions that the HMEP grant applications be submitted to the LEPC Regions by July 15, 2009. The LEPC Chairs and members should review, approve and submit to Ron by August 15, 2009. The second quarter for the current grants for fiscal year 08/09 ends March 31, 2009. Those that have applied (Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, and Humboldt) will be submitting reimbursement documentation to Ron within the next few days. Ron expressed importance of submitting reimbursement documentation on due-dates in order to receive timely reimbursement.

Notices for the new HMEP grants (Fiscal Yr. 09/10) will go out in May. Ron will provide training to local governments and HazMat planning agencies to better promote the grant if needed. There is no set cap on the dollar amounts available to regions. The HMEP funds are allocated based on need. Per requirement, HazMat Area Plans should be updated every three years.

The DOT will sponsor a conference in Boise, ID on April 20-24. The conference is the National Association of SARA Title III (NASCO). Ron will provide briefing at the next meeting.

4. HazMat Training Grant Update:

DOT grant discussed by Ron earlier also provides funds for HazMat training for first responders. The funds and training are allocated through the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) with support provided by the Regional LEPCs. The Region II LEPC received approximately 45 grants for HazMat Tech A-D and HazMat Specialist F&G trainings. The region filled all slots. HazMat Tech A-D is currently taking place in the City of Santa Rosa. Specialist F & G training will occur in June of '09. We will request that Jeanine Gentis, CSTI Training Division, attend the next meeting to provide an update on training opportunities made available to Region II LEPC candidates for next fiscal year of 09/10. The Bay Area UASI provides free training for HazMat Tech A – D as well. The contact is available via the website at, www.bayareauasi.org. Santa Fe Fire Dept. is hosting Tech A-D and Specialist F & G trainings in May.

5. HazMat Commodity Study

Mike Bryant (Mike), Regional Manager UPRR, provided an overview on the UPRR Commodity Study. Mike advised that the report he receives is much simpler than the report that was provided to the committee. His list provides commodities and the number of tank carloads. The commodity list is a good planning tool and Mike can provide us with his list per our request. The railroad provides training to local responders, and customizes training based on the agencies specific needs. A four-hour training was conducted in Benicia last week. A tank car will be taken to the “Continuing Challenge” this year. UPRR usually conducts tank car courses at CSTI as well. Mike’s territory runs from SLO to Oakland and east to Davis. Other UPRR subdivisions include the Central Valley to Goshen Junction and Dunsmuir, LA Basin (Long Beach and Colton), Salt Lake, Portland, and El Paso. Managers are on duty 24/7 unless on vacation. All UPRR Managers are Specialist Trained Tank Car responders. During hazmat incidents, depending on the need for assets, UPRR will draw from a one-call contractor to order assets. Some of the major players include NRC and Clean Harbors out of Benicia. UPRR could draw assets from both during major hazmat incidents. Most UPRR Managers attend the Regional LEPC meetings throughout the state to stay involved and share information.

6. HazMat Oil Spill Plans

Op Areas are required to have an oil spill response plans for entities that surround the Bay. San Francisco Bay is required to have a major overall encompassing plan that integrates with county plans. The Alameda County HazMat Response Plan feeds into that San Francisco Bay Response Plan. The Alameda County plan is almost completed. They are trying to get a handle on response equipment available within the LEPC region available to respond. There was a list put together by Leonard Miller. The final draft of the volunteer management element is being finalized. The oil spill volunteer management element came out of the need for better coordination of volunteers that self-dispatched during the Cosco Busan Oil Spill. The Alameda County Plan is being posted on the website. LeRoy will send us a copy of the website.

7. LEPC Member Reports

Nothing reported

8. Proposed Agenda and Next Meeting date:

- Ron will brief on the NASCO conference in April in Boise, ID.
- Burlington BNRR to provide briefing on HazMat Commodity Study

- Jeanine Gentis re: FFY 09/10 HazMat training available.

Next meeting date scheduled June 25, 2009.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Administrative Actions:

- Information on 09/10 HMEP Grant – Ron
- Notes for next meeting - Sandra
- Consult with Brian Nabil to determine if we can get a comprehensive list of what type of HazMat resources are available within the Region -Sandra
- Contact rep from BNRR for Hazmat Commodity Study at June 25, 2009, meeting – Sandra
- Send out meeting dates through end of year for Region II LEPC – Sandra